

ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

MAY 2026

ALL GENERAL ORDERS MUST BE READ AT POST MEETINGS AND FILED FOR FUTURE REFERENCE, PER THE STATE COMMANDER

Due to Convention timing there will be no General orders in June

Department Membership Standing: 97.23%

District Totals

District 1 – 86.3%
District 2 – 96.72%
District 4 – 93.64%

District 5 – 83.92%
District 6 – 108.5%
District 7 – 104.02%

District 9 – 103.36%
District 10 – 97.79%
District 13 – 106.56%

Top 5 Posts

Post 12233 – Perryville – Commander Treece – 138.23%
Post 4453 – Morrilton – Commander White – 121.42%
Post 4683 – Newport – Commander Johnson – 121.09%
Post 10417 – Lead Hill – Commander Hall – 119.23%
Post 4449 – Marianna – Commander Holland – 114.81%

As of today, 47 Posts and 4 Districts have achieved Commander Wood's membership goal.
Congratulations!!

Don't forget that the All State and All-American Programs run thru June 30, 2026. Best of Luck to all.

Commander's Notes

It's been a privilege to serve as your Commander this year. This role is truly the culmination of years of hard work, and the best part has been the opportunity to meet so many of you in person.

As we head toward the convention, remember: the year isn't over yet. Our mission continues until June 30th, so let's keep the momentum going with recruiting. Every person we bring into our family directly strengthens our ability to help veterans in the long run.

I also want to give a huge "thank you" to the Cooties. You've done outstanding work across the state this year, and it's been great to see.

Lastly, regarding the upcoming elections at the convention: you earned your membership in this organization. You paid the price to be here, and your vote is yours alone. If anyone from another Post tries to tell you how to vote, they are wrong. No one should dictate your choice—make that decision for yourself.

Thank you all for an incredible year!

Rodney L. Wood

State Commander

Department of Arkansas

Senior Vice Commander's Notes

Mother's Day and Memorial Day both fall in May, giving us moments to honor love and sacrifice.

Mother's Day celebrates the women who raised, guided, and stood by us, while Memorial Day remembers the service members who gave their lives for our country.

We're heading to Doubletree in Little Rock this month for our State Convention. As we close out a great year and vote a year's leadership. I want you to know I'm a candidate for State Commander. I'd greatly appreciate your support.

End of June is the finish line for this year's membership goal. Let's keep the momentum going and close it out strong.

I'd like to wish all our Mothers a Happy Mother's Day. Hope to see you at State Convention.

~SVC Johnson

Junior Vice Commander's Notes

Commanders at all levels. We still have time to get the state of Arkansas to 101% or even higher. Membership will always be important and will never go away. We/the VFW need membership to be high and continue to grow to keep our voice in congress. So, let's all do our part and job to get out there and recruit.

Lastly, I'm Terry Ham. As your current sitting Department Junior Vice Commander. I would like to take this opportunity and thank you for your continued support over the last three years as I've moved up through the chairs. I would greatly appreciate your support and vote once again as I run for Department Senior Vice Commander for 2026-2027 at this year's convention. I look forward to seeing everyone May 28-31, 2026.

~JVC Ham

Judge Advocate's Notes

As this administrative year comes to a close, I want to take a moment to express my sincere thanks for the opportunity to serve as your State Judge Advocate. It has been a year of deep immersion into the rules and procedures that keep our Department strong, and I am grateful for the trust you placed in me to uphold our bylaws and protect the integrity of our organization.

What I Have Learned

Serving as your "legal eye" has taught me that while the "Green Book" provides our structure, it is the people who provide our purpose. My time in this chair has given me a unique perspective on:

- **The Value of Fair Play:** Ensuring every post and member is treated with respect and consistency.
- **The Power of Knowledge:** Understanding our history and rules allows us to move forward without repeating the mistakes of the past.
- **Service Above Self:** Seeing the tireless work of our leadership has inspired me to take the next step in my journey of service to you.

Moving Toward the Future

As I look toward the 2026–2027 term and my candidacy for State Junior Vice Commander, my focus shifts from the "letter of the law" to the "growth of the line."

If elected, I intend to bring the same discipline and dedication I used as Judge Advocate to our membership efforts. My vision for the coming year is built on:

1. **Retention Through Engagement:** Ensuring our current members feel valued and heard so they stay for a lifetime, not just a year.
2. **Mentorship:** Using my knowledge of our procedures to help new Post and District leaders navigate their roles with confidence.
3. **Unity:** Working hand-in-hand with the Commander and Senior Vice to ensure the Department of Arkansas remains a powerhouse of veteran advocacy.

Thank you for the guidance, the camaraderie, and the lessons learned. I humbly ask for your support as we continue to move this Department forward together.

Yours in Comradeship,

~JA Powell

Surgeon's Notes

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to everyone for their unwavering support throughout my year as the VFW Department of Arkansas State Surgeon. I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting every post within the state. I am running for the State Judge Advocate position for this upcoming year. Thank you for your past support. I hope to continue to receive your support in the future and I will appreciate your vote at the state convention for Judge Advocate. The state convention is scheduled to take place at the Doubletree in Little Rock from May 28 through the 31st. For further details about the state convention, please contact Jennifer at the state office. She can help you with getting a room, registration for the event, and tickets to the awards dinner. This is your convention. I encourage everyone attend and celebrate all of our collective achievements for this year. Hope to see you at the convention. Bailey is looking forward to seeing everyone again. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, God bless you.

~SGN Morris

Scout of the Year

This year's winner is Caden McKinney representing Post 3031 in Rogers. Caden is a Senior at Shiloh Christian School. Congratulations to Caden on this well-deserved honor!

National Home

Department Junior Vice Commander Terry Him is going to National Home this month. If your Post or District has any donations or items that need to go, please get them to him TODAY and he will ensure that they get to the National Home. Terry will be leaving for the National Home on May 13th, so you need to act quickly.

State Convention

Veterans of Foreign Wars National Junior Vice Commander Designee Bobby Lovergne from Louisiana will be our National Representative!

Our very own 2025-2026 Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars National President Lois Callahan, from Auxiliary 2278 in Hot Springs, will be the Auxiliary Representative!

This year's 95th State Convention will be May 28-31, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Little Rock. Please direct your attention to VFWAR.ORG where you will find banquet information, hotel rates, the agenda, and details about the annual golf tournament. Headquarters is also working on a few surprises so don't wait until the last minute or you might miss out on all the fun! Please direct any question to Department Headquarters.

The following members have announced their candidacy for one of the following offices. More individuals could announce before elections. *****All Candidates are listed by office in alphabetic order*****

Department Officer Candidates 2026-2027

Commander – Linda Johnson
Senior Vice Commander – Terry Ham
Junior Vice Commander – Glen Powell
Quartermaster – Jeffrey Byrd and Terry Callahan
Judge Advocate – Patsy Morris
Surgeon – Bill Lowmon, Johnathon Mullins, and Carlton Rodney
Chaplain – Doreen Brown
National Council Member – Jeffrey Byrd, Mark Davis, Ashley Little, and Rodney Wood

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS GENERAL ORDERS

GENERAL ORDERS #11
2025-2026

May 2026

Due to Convention timing there will be no General orders in June

127th National Convention

The 127th VFW National Convention will be held July 25-29, 2026, at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center in Reno, NV. Go to [vfwar.org / News/ National Convention](http://vfwar.org/News/National_Convention) for all pertinent information pertaining to this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Memorial Day Ceremonies

Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery at North Little Rock. Location is 1501 West Maryland Ave, North Little Rock, AR 72120. Scheduled for Monday, May 25, at 9:00 a.m.

Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery at Birdeye. Location is 3600 Arkansas 163, Cherry Valley, AR, 72324. Scheduled for Monday, May 25th at 3:00 pm.

Section 223 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedures Each Post shall make arrangements for observances of Memorial Day, see that suitable grave markers, wreaths and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased members and, if practicable, conduct Memorial Day Services in the cemeteries in its locality.

Installation

Installing Officers: Installing officers will see that the provisions of **Section 216 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure** states that Post officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the Post Adjutant. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Such proof of eligibility shall be open to and reviewed by the Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster prior to installation to office. In the event an elected or appointed officer fails to submit proof of eligibility within thirty (30) days of election or appointment, any right of the officer to hold the office shall be forfeited, the office declared vacant and the eligibility qualifications of such officer shall be questioned in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of the National Bylaws.

Please ensure that Section 216 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures **are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to installing Post**

officers for the current year. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Post-Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We highly encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post-Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters.

Posts

Post Commanders: Section 222 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedures which states Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Delegate strength will be based on members in good standing as of March 31st. Delegates and alternates of each Post shall serve as delegates throughout the year provided they remain members in good standing in the respective Post within the District. Delegates shall not be recognized at the National Convention unless they personally register their completed delegate card with the National Credentials Committee. Posts instituted after delegate strength has been determined, but prior to convening date of the respective convention or District meeting, shall on the day of institution, elect one delegate and one alternate for each thirty names or fraction thereof according to the number of names listed on the charter application.

Post Commander: Attention is directed to **Section 215 of the National By-Laws and Manuel of Procedure** which states All members shall be eligible to hold any office in the Post provided that proof of eligibility has been submitted and verified by the Post Commander and Adjutant prior to the installation. No member shall hold two elected Post offices at the same time but may hold one elected and one or more appointed offices. Elected Committee members are not Post Officers and accordingly may concurrently hold an elected Post office as provided for in Section 216 of these Bylaws. Post officers, elected or appointed, may be eligible to hold office in a higher body and such offices may be held concurrently. Post Trustees shall not be eligible to serve on committees or as officers having to do with the receipt and expenditure of Post funds whose records and accounts are audited by the trustees. Any officer or committee member whose membership is not in good standing by reason of failure to pay current dues by their anniversary date shall forfeit eligibility to hold any office in that administrative year. Any member who is suspended from membership pursuant to Article IX, shall forfeit eligibility to hold any office or committee membership during the period of suspension.

Attention is directed to **Section 222 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure**. This portion of the By-laws states that (a) Delegate strength shall be one for every thirty members or fraction thereof in good standing. Delegates and alternates shall be elected in accordance with the Manual of Procedure. (b) Delegates elected under this section shall not be considered instructed and may exercise full authority in the duty to be performed. (c) Each Post will pay, in accordance with its Department Bylaws, a delegate registration fee for each and every delegate to which the Post shall be entitled. (d) Each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee.

For those who do not have computers , please forward your election report form to the Department Headquarters who will file the report for you. Please ensure that all elected and appointed Officers are listed with correct phone number, email address, and mailing addresses on your election report. This will facilitate preparation of the Department directory.

Districts

District Commanders: Section 416 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedure states that District officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the District Adjutant. Additionally, District Commanders, District Senior Vice Commanders, and District Junior Vice Commanders shall submit proof of eligibility to the Department Adjutant. District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Such proof of eligibility shall be open to and reviewed by the District Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster prior to installation to office. In the event an elected or appointed officer fails to submit proof of eligibility within thirty (30) days of election or appointment, any right of the officer to hold the office shall be forfeited, the office declared vacant and the eligibility qualifications of such officer shall be questioned in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of the National Bylaws.

All District Commanders are asked to make sure that the District election report is completed with all of the elected and appointed Officers completed and forward to the State Adjutant immediately after the District Convention. This will facilitate the preparation of the Department Directory.

District Meeting Dates for 2026-2027: All newly elected District Commanders are reminded please try within 30 days to submit to the Department Adjutant a list of all meetings for the 2026-2027 year (if you have them). This will help us for planning purposes.

Per Section 403 of the National By-laws, each District should hold two (2) regular meeting for the purpose of transacting business and conducting a school of instruction and each District shall hold an annual District Convention for electing District officers. You can still hold one every quarter if your district desires that.

DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

Department Business:

Suspended: Post 3543 Tumbling Shoals
Post 4679 Harrisburg

Rodney Wood

State Commander

OFFICIAL
Jeffrey Byrd

State Adjutant

District Meetings

District meeting dates are listed on the web site, however prior to attending please verify with your District Commanders.



MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

STATE MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

MAY 25, 2026 9:00 AM

ARKANSAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY

NORTH LITTLE ROCK

1501 WEST MARYLAND AVE



Department of Arkansas Veterans of Foreign Wars
& Its Auxiliary
95th Annual State Convention
2025-2026

BLACK – BOTH

BLUE – VFW

RED - AUXILIARY

Thursday May 28th

8:00am – Commander’s Cup – go to VFWAR.ORG for more information

1:00pm – 4:30pm - VFW & Auxiliary Convention Registration (must register before delegates) – Riverside West

1:00pm – 4:30pm – VFW Delegate Check-In – Riverside West

1:00pm – 4:30pm – Auxiliary Delegate Check-In – Riverside West

12:00pm – Buddy Poppy Displays Set up – Palisades

12:00pm – Scrapbook Set up - Palisades

1:00pm – 4:30pm – Country Store – Palisades

1:00pm - VFW Aux Council of Admin – Salon D

4:00pm – Joint Opening – Salon ABC

Directly following Joint Opening – VFW Council of Admin – Salon ABC

Directly following Joint Opening – VFW Aux Floor Practice – Salon D

Friday May 29th

8:30am – Buddy Poppy Display Set up – **Must be displayed by 1pm** – Palisades

8:30am – Scrapbook Set up – **Must be out by 1pm** - Palisades

8:30am – 11:30am & 12:30pm – 3:30pm – VFW and Auxiliary Registration – Riverside West

8:30am – 11:30am & 12:30pm – 3:30pm – VFW Delegate Check-In – Riverside West

8:30am – 11:30am & 12:30pm – 3:30pm – Auxiliary Delegate Check-In – Riverside West

8:30am – 3:30 – Country Store – Palisades

8:30am – 12:00pm – VFW Auxiliary Business Meeting – Salon D

9:00am – 12:00pm – VFW Business Meeting – Salon ABC

1:00pm – 3:00pm – VFW Quartermaster Training – Salon ABC

1:00pm – 3:00pm– Service Officer Training – Riverside East

1:00pm – 3:00pm – 2026-2027 Program Training – Salon D

Following QM Training – Suicide Prevention Training – Riverside East

After 1pm - Buddy Poppy Judging – Winners announced during Banquet

After 1pm – Scrapbook Judging – Winners announced during Saturday Business meeting

5:00pm – 9:00pm Combined Awards/Banquet Farewell to Commander and President – Salon ABC

Saturday May 30th

8:00am - 9:00am - Auxiliary Registration & Delegate Check-In – Riverside West

8:00am – 10:00am – VFW Registration and Delegate Check-In – Riverside West

8:00am – 1:00pm – Country Store - Palisades

9:00am – VFW Business Session – Salon ABC

9:00am – Auxiliary Business Meeting – Salon D

3 :30pm – Joint Installation – Salon ABC

Immediately following Joint Installation – Motorcycle Group Meeting – Riverside East

5pm – Hotdog Social with Cornhole and other entertainment – Back Patio

Sunday Morning May 31st

9:30am – VFW 2026-2027 Council of Administration Meeting – Salon ABC

9:30am – VFW Auxiliary 2026-2027 Council of Administration – Salon D

Riverside West – 2nd Floor

Salon ABC – 2nd Floor

Riverside East – 2nd Floor

Salon D – 2nd Floor

Palisades – 2nd Floor

Edgehill – 1st Floor

Hospitality Rooms:

District 5 – Edgehill

Post 11474 (Levy) – 4th Floor Room TBD

****You MUST register BEFORE going to get your delegate stamp**

****This is a tentative schedule and subject to change****

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Arkansas
And Its Auxiliary
95th State Convention
May 28-31, 2026

Friday's Awards/Farewell is \$70 in advance and \$75 at the door
This price INCLUDES your registration!!

Banquet tickets have been selling out prior to the last few conventions, please purchase ASAP

Deadline for Pre-Registration is COB May 21st (No Exceptions)

Time: Banquet is at 5:00pm Friday
Banquet Theme is: Camo and Orange
Meal : Mexican Buffet
Tea, Water and Coffee
Cash Bar

Location:
DoubleTree Hotel
454 West Markham
Little Rock, AR

Phone:

Room Rate: Single \$139/night + tax + \$10/day parking
(reduced parking rate is only for those staying in the hotel using the VFW Block)

All VFW, VFW Auxiliary, and Guests MUST Register at \$10.00 per person prior to May 21, 2026 COB. If you purchase a banquet ticket, the registration fee is included in the price of the banquet ticket.

Registration and Delegate Dues are NOT the same thing.

Reservation Form
State Convention
May 28-31, 2026

Make your check payable to: VFW Department of Arkansas
We accept Mastercard, Visa, And Discover

Name _____ Post _____

No. of Tickets for the for the Banquet (registration included in this price) @ \$70.00 per person _____ \$ _____

No. of Registrations (only if not purchasing a banquet ticket) @ \$10.00 per person _____ \$ _____

Credit Card Number _____ Date of Exp _____ Security Code _____

Billing address for Card: _____

Email address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Please mail to: Veterans of Foreign Wars, Dept of AR, 4210 E. Kiehl Avenue, Sherwood, AR 72120. You can call Department Headquarters at: 501-834-8392 to pre-register Tuesday – Thursday Pre-registering will help you avoid long lines and save you money. The tickets will not be mailed; they will be held in your name and must be picked up at the registration desk.

*If you purchase your ticket using a credit card, the charge will show as a PayPal charge on your statement

How to Book Your Hotel Room For State Convention:

1. Use the Booking Link this will book you through the Hotels Direct Website

Rooms can be booked at the group rate until **05/08/2026** or until the block is sold out.

For your group room block, guests can access the discounted rate by using the link pasted below or following the step-by-step directions:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=LITMBDT&groupCode=CDT92T&arrivaldate=2026-05-27&departuredate=2026-05-31&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Step by Step Directions:

1. Go to [DoubleTree by Hilton in Downtown Little Rock, Arkansas](#)
2. Enter arrival/departure dates
3. Click the "Special Rates" box
4. Enter "92T" in the Group Code box
5. Click the "Check Rooms & Rates" box. The group rate of \$139.00 per night is available for Standard King and Double Queen rooms.

2. Contact our reservationist directly at the DoubleTree Hotel (501) 508-8149

Call Directly Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm cst

You will book directly with her at the hotel

Rooms can be booked at the group rate until **05/08/2026** or until the block is sold out.

Note: If you book through a 3rd Party, Advance Purchase, or Hilton Points, No changes can be made to these Reservations. Also, if you book through a 3rd party, parking rates are not discounted.

**VFW DEPT OF AR &
ITS AUXILIARY**

95TH

**AWARDS & FAREWELL
BANQUET**

May 29th, 2026 5pm

Located in Salon A,B,C

Come dressed in your camo and orange and help us celebrate Commander Rodney Wood and President Tommy Hughes. Lots of fun and camaraderie to be had by all!

DoubleTree Hotel
424 W Markham St
Little Rock, AR

Go to VFWAR.ORG for more info

Annual

COMMANDER'S CUP

7AM Registration | 8AM Shotgun Start

Date

Thursday, May 28, 2026

Cost

Registration:
\$75/player or \$300/Team

Hole Sponsorship:
\$150

Drink Cart
Sponsorship:
\$200

Burns Park Golf Course: 30 Championship Drive, Little Rock, AR